whether there is any proposal before the Government for fixing the period for the collection of kists in the Trichinopoly district in four instalments commencing from January to April instead of January, February and March?

A.—The answer is in the negative. The representations were considered before orders were issued in G.O. No. 1162, Revenue, dated 6th June 1932, fixing a kistbandi of 6 annas in January, 6 annas in February and 4 annas in March for all the taluks of the Trichinopoly district with the exception of Karur.

Hereditary right of succession among village officers and village menials in Salem district.

* 226 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) on what definite principles the village officers and village menials in Salem district are not allowed the hereditary right of their posts;

(*b*) in which districts such officers and menials hold this right and the special reasons for the same;

(*c*) whether any representations have been received from the village officers of Salem district in this behalf;

(*d*) if so, from which place such representations were received and in what way they were disposed of; and

(*e*) what objections and special difficulties the Government hold to order for the modification of Board's Standing Order No. 156, to afford equal opportunities and privilege to the village officers, and village menials in Salem and other similar districts, as enjoyed by those in other districts where such posts are governed by statute, and are hereditary?

A.—(*a*) Custom.

(*b*) Village offices other than those specified in Board's Standing Order No. 156 are hereditary. They were hereditary in character before Madras Act III of 1895 was passed.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) ——.

(*e*) The hereditary or non-hereditary character of village offices in any district or part of a district depends on the custom which has prevailed in that area for generations. The Government see no reason to depart from that principle.

Damage to Malabar on account of the cyclone.

* 227 *Q.*—B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was a cyclone on or about 25th May on the West Coast;

(*b*) which are the areas in Malabar which were affected by the same;